Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03862 011836Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
USSS-00 SAB-02 (ISO) W
----------048232 021049Z /13
R 011825Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7300
INFO PANCANAL
USSOUTHCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 03862

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PN, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: "...AND WE'LL ALL RUN OUT TO GREET HIM WHEN
HE COMES..."

REF: (A) PANAMA 3773, (B) PANAMA 3022

SUMMARY: THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT IS GEARING UP FOR
A LARGE-SCALE, WARM RECEPTION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER.
SOME STUDENT GROUPS AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF TORRIJOS
AND/OR THE TREATIES WOULD PERHAPS LIKE TO MAKE THINGS
A LITTLE TOO WARM, BUT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE
DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING THEM UNDER CONTROL. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT IS GOING ALL OUT TO MAKE
PRESIDENT CARTER'S JUNE 16-17 VISIT TO PANAMA A HAPPY
AND IMPRESSIVE ONE. FOR STARTERS, THE PANAMANIANS
ARE TALKING ABOUT MASSIVE GROUPS -- 100,000 TO
250,000 PEOPLE IN ALL -- BEING ON HAND AT THE VARIOUS
POINTS DURING THE FIRST DAY'S ACTIVITIES: AT THE
SIGNING CEREMONY, ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE, AND AT
THE MASS MEETING AT THE FIFTH OF MAY PLAZA. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03862 011836Z

GOVERNMENT IS PRACTICED AT TURNING OUT LARGE CROWDS ON
DEMAND, BUT STILL THE LOWER FIGURE IS PROBABLY THE
MORE REALISTIC. TO A LARGE DEGREE, THESE GROUPS WILL
CONSIST OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND SCHOOL CHILDREN,
BUT ALL SECTORS ARE BEING COURTED AND URGED TO
TURN OUT. REPORTEDLY, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL BE
BROUGHT IN FROM THE INTERIOR FOR THE BIG DAY.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

2. THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED THAT EVERYTHING GO SMOOTHLY AND THAT NORTHING EMBARRASSING OCCUR TO EITHER PRESIDENT CARTER OR PANAMA. WITH WORLD ATTENTION FOCUSED ON IT, PANAMA KNOWS IT CAN ILL AFFORD ANY MISHAPS. SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT, AND DISSIDENTS KEPT TEMPORARILY UNDER WRAPS.

3. A GOOD MANY ARTICULATE PANAMANIANS OPPOSE PRESIDENT CARTE'S VISIT, BASICALLY BECUASE THEY BELIEVE IT IS A FILLIP FOR A REGIME THEY DETEST OR BECUASE THEY CONSIDER PANAMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREATIES TO BE A CRAVEN ACQUIESCENCE IN CONTINUED IMPERIALIST DOMINATION OF PANAMA. MANY WHO OPPOSE THE VISIT WERE TREATY OPPONENTS ALL ALONG, AND THEIR PROTEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS MORE OR LESS A LOGICAL OUTGROWTH FOR THEM. SEVERAL LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY AND ARE CURRENTLY LETTING OFF SOME STEAM IN OCCASIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND LOTS OF SLOGAN-PAINTING AROUND TWON. IT IS THESE STUDENTS WHO, PRESUMABLY, WILL BE OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT WHEN JUNE 16-17 ROLLS AROUND. INDICATIONS FROM NATIONAL GUARD SOURCES SUGGEST THAT THE STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN THE WORD THAT NAY UNTOWARD ACTIVITIES SIMPLY WILL NOT DO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4. THE PANAMENISTA PARTY ALSO FITS THIS CATEGORY, BUT PARTY LEADERS HAVE ASSURED US THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO DISRUPT THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN ANY WAY (REF A). FOR THE MOMENT, THE PANAMENISTAS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH PLANNING FOR THE RETURN TO PANAMA ON JUNE 10 OF FORMER PRESIDENT ARNULFO ARIAS. THIS EVENT COMES UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. WHILE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANY TROUBLE DIRECTED AT CARTER WILL ARISE FROM IT, THE PANAMENISTAS ARE ALREADY TRYING TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR TORRIJOS, AND THAT EFFORT WILL PICK UP ONCE ARNULFO GETS BACK.

5. AMONG OTHERS PROTESTING THE VISIT ARE SUCH DIVERSE GROUPS AS THE RECENTLY RETURNED POLITICAL EXILES, WHO HAVE BEEN FAIRLY QUIET SINCE THE INITIAL FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN APRIL, AND A CONGLO-MERATION OF SOME 85 PRIESTS, DEACONS, MINISTERS AND LAYMENT OF VARIOUS REGLIGIOUS MOVEMENTS WHO WROTE TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON MAY 8, PROTESTING THE VISIT.

6. PANAMA'S COMMUNIST PARTY, THE PARTIDO DEL PUEBLO (PDP), SEEMS TO BE IN A QUANDARY AT THIS POINT.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ALTHOUGH THE PARTY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT ON
THE TREATY ISSUE, IT HAS A VISCERAL REACTION AGAINST
THE CARTER VISIT ON GENERAL, ANTI-IMPERIALIST
PRINCIPLES. WHETHER THE PDP WILL TAKE A MILITANT
STANCE AGAINST CARTER OR WILL SUCCUMB TO GOVERNMENT
PRESSURE TO COOPERATE IN GREETING HIM APPARENTLY IS A
MATTER OF SOME DEBATE. THE PDP MAY OPT OUT ALTOGETHER,
THUS AVOIDING AN IDEOLOGICALLY AND PRAGMATICALLY DIFFICULT
DECISION. OR, TOGETHER WITH OR VIA THE STUDENTS,
THEY MAY STAGE A PEACEFUL ANTI-YANKEE DEMONSTRATION,
EMPHASIZING PANAMA'S CONTINUING STRUGGLE FOR
SOVEREIGNTH.

7. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PANAMA 03862 011836Z

SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO SURFACE ON JUNE 16. THOUGH
NOT EVERYONE IN THE CROWDS WILL BE OUT IN THE
WEATHER FROM CHOICE, WE EXPECT A BASICALLY WARM
AND SINCERE OUTPOURING FOR THE PRESIDENT. THERE IS
SOME RESIDUAL ANTI-YANKEE SENTIMENT HERE, BUT NOT
NEARLY AS MUCH AS A VETERAN OF LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
MIGHT EXPECT. AND CARTER IS SEEN BY MOST PANAMANIANS
AS A MORAL MAN WHO HAS DONE HIS BEST TO GIVE PANAMA
A FAIR SHAKE. IN ADDITION, PANAMANIANS ARE PROUD
PEOPLE, AND THEY WILL NO DOUBT WANT TO PUT ON THEIR
BEST FACE FOR THE GAGGLE OF INTERNATIONAL VIPS
WHO WILL BE ON HAND.JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA03862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0010
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806107/aaaadoce.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4bd1417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PANAMA 3773, 78 PANAMA 3022
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2160816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ...AND WE\'LL ALL RUN OUT TO GREET HIM WHEN HE COMES...
TAGS: PINT, PINS, OVIP, PN, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4bd1417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014